Applicants hereby amend the paragraph on page 3, beginning on line 4 as follows:

One embodiment of the second gear (e.g., a metal gear) exhibits a slightly smaller toothing than the first gear (e.g., a plastic gear) ~~while having the same modulus~~. Therefore, under normal loading only the first gear made of plastic stands in engagement with another gear. As the load becomes greater, for example in the event of an overload, the first gear made yields in the elastic range so that the second gear made of metal also comes into engagement and can accept the high forces that now occur. In this way the first gear made of plastic is safely protected against overloading and fracture.

Applicants hereby amend the paragraph on page 4, beginning on line 14 as follows:

FIG. 1 illustrates a gear arrangement 10 that includes a first gear 12 and a second gear 14. The first gear 12 is arranged immediately adjacent to the second gear 14. The first gear 12 is preferably made of plastic, while second gear 14 is made of metal. The second gear 14 has a slightly smaller toothing than the first gear 12~~, while having the same modulus~~. For ease of illustration, the shaft on which the gears 12 and 14 sit is not drawn.